Copper Ltd. (HCL), Manganese Ore India Ltd. (MOIL), National Aluminium Compoany Ltd. (NALCO), Sponge Iron India Ltd. (SIIL), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL), Engineers (India) Ltd. is on. Government has taken "in principle" decision to disinvest in the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL). The time by which the disinvestment process in all these public sector undertakings would be completed cannot be precisely indicated at this stage.

Growth of unemployment due to disinvestment policy

448. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disinvestment policy of Government has resulted in growth of unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereot;

(c) whether Government have taken any precautionary measures to deal with the situation of unemployment in the light of disinvestment policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no indication of increase in unemployment due to the disinvestment policy of the Government. On the contrary with increase in production in, and expansion of disinvested units, Government has every expectation that employment in the disinvested units will increase. The Government is committed to protect the interests of the workers, as mentioned by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2000-2001. Opening up the public sector to appropriate private investment would increase economic activity and have an overall beneficial effect on the economy, employment and tax revenues in the medium to long term.

Funds for various health programmes to Himachal Pradesh

†449. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.